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## WEBB COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONER JUDITH GUTIERREZ APPLAUDS TXDOT'S INITIAL APPROVAL OF COUNTY'S BRIDGE APPLICATION**

LAREDO – Webb County Commissioner Judith Gutierrez today applauded the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) for giving the county approval to move forward with its application for a fifth international bridge.

“This day has been a long time coming,” said Gutierrez, who was on the Commissioners’ Court when it initially voted to pursue a fifth bridge in November of 2000. “I am delighted that Webb County is one step closer to building our long-awaited ‘Puente de la Unidad.’”

Gutierrez also commended County Judge Louis Bruni for his recent decision to continue pursuing the bridge.

“Given the difficult financial times that lie ahead for the county due to the dramatic budget cuts at the state level, I commend Judge Bruni for demonstrating both foresight and leadership to recognize that the county must find a stable, long-term source of revenue,” said Gutierrez. “Too many families depend on county-supported health care and public safety services, for us to continue allowing ourselves to be so vulnerable to the effects of state or federal budget cuts.”

“I just hope that Laredo city officials will recognize the value of joining with us on this endeavor,” said Gutierrez. “Webb County has invested significant resources to complete the bridge application and would welcome a partnership with the City of Laredo before city officials spend any more tax dollars duplicating our efforts.”

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